



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

NEWS RELEASE

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OCEAN BEACH EYESORE MAY SOON ROLL OUT OF THE COMMUNITY

Jury Finds Owner and Tenant Guilty of Violations

San Diego, CA: The Ocean Beach community will soon be able to say goodbye to buses that have created an eyesore on Voltaire Street for almost a decade. A jury found property owner James W. Morgan and tenant James Morgan Jr. guilty of eight counts each of violating the City of San Diego's zoning laws by illegally storing the buses. Both Morgans will be sentenced on August 19, at 9:00 a.m. in the chambers of Superior Court Judge Gerald Jessop, Department 14. A number of community people from Ocean Beach will be present at the sentencing.

Last year, the San Diego Police Department opened a "Project Oriented Policing" (POP) case on the property in response to community complaints of transients and drug activity in the buses. POP brings various resources and problem solving techniques together to solve the problem. At least one community member noticed transients leaving the property on a daily basis. Officers made a number of trips to the property and issued citations to trespassers. An officer testified at trial that the buses had broken glass, vandalism, had syringes and smelled like urine inside.

According to Deputy City Attorney Kristi Pfister, who prosecuted the case, in 2000 the property owner and tenant failed to register the forty year old deteriorating buses that they alleged were for sale or lease. That fact, in addition to a disconnected phone number posted at the property, provided enforcement officials with evidence to file a complaint based on zoning violations. Neighborhood Code Compliance Department (NCCD) learned about the public nuisance property from police, discovered the zoning violation and notified the property owner and tenant. But neither the property owner and tenant took any steps to remove the buses. In May 2002, the case was referred to the City Attorney's Code Enforcement Unit for prosecution.

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